



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Your New Jersey Community *Can Help Migratory Birds*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
New Jersey Field Office  
927 North Main Street, Building D  
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

P: 609/646 9310  
F: 609/646 0352  
E: [njfieldoffice@fws.gov](mailto:njfieldoffice@fws.gov)  
W: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/>

Federal Relay Service for the deaf  
and hard-of-hearing 800/877 8339

December 2007



All Photographs: USFWS

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)

## New Jersey's Avian Heritage

The Garden State is rich with bird life! New Jersey may be small, but its climate and geography provide a great diversity of bird habitats across rugged ridges, vast marshes, sandy beaches, pine barrens, protected bays, rich lowlands, grassy meadows, and winding rivers. Centrally located at a crossroads of bird migration routes, New Jersey's diverse habitats support over 450 bird species including over 200 that breed here – from songbirds to shorebirds, woodpeckers to waterbirds, hummingbirds to hawks. This hub of bird activity does not go unnoticed. About 1.9 million residents and visitors spent \$1.2 billion watching New Jersey's wildlife in 2001.



Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)



Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

## Birds in danger

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service classifies about a quarter of the Nation's 836 species of migratory birds as endangered, threatened, or "of conservation concern." Habitat loss and degradation are the primary threats, but other sources of human-caused mortality exacerbate declining bird populations. Collision and electrocution at man-made structures, poisoning from environmental contaminants, and predation from feral and outdoor cats collectively kill many millions of birds each year.



Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
(*Archilochus colubris*)



Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

## Ways You Can Help

The good news is that your community can help protect migratory birds for the continued enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The actions listed below can be taken by county and municipal officials, environmental commissions, nature centers, schools, garden clubs, and individual land owners. See what you can do to protect New Jersey's amazing bird life!

- Become familiar with bird conservation plans such as the Partners in Flight, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, North American Bird Conservation Initiative, Important Bird Areas, and New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan.
- Identify and pursue opportunities to protect, manage, and restore bird habitats and to implement provisions of the bird conservation plans listed above. Technical and material assistance may be available through federal and State programs.
- Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth, Green Acres Program, and Division of Land Use Regulation to protect important bird habitats. Support acquisition of the most sensitive areas, and consider supplementing State land-use regulations with complementary ordinances and zoning.
- Join other municipalities, the Service, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the *Coastal Beach Management Initiative* to protect birds that depend on sandy beach habitats.
- Enforce and strengthen dog leash laws in sensitive wildlife habitats, support the *Cats Indoors* campaign, and consider an ordinance to prohibit free-roaming cats.
- Regulate the construction of structures that pose a potential electrocution or collision hazard to migratory birds.
  - For new or replacement power lines, require *Avian Protection Plans* and consistency with the *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines*.
  - For proposed communication towers, require consistency with the Service's tower siting guidelines, and coordinate with the Service on structures over 200 feet tall.
  - For proposed wind turbines, require consistency with Service guidelines and coordinate with the Service during project review.
  - For glass windows in existing buildings and proposed buildings two stories or less, encourage the adoption of practices to minimize bird collisions such as glass coverings and careful landscaping. For proposed buildings three stories or taller, coordinate with the Service during project review and require practices such as turning off indoor lights, minimizing and down-shielding outdoor lights, and using bird-friendly glass or glass coverings.
- Promote establishment of bird habitats in backyards, corporate parks, and golf courses, emphasizing native vegetation.
- Limit the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Promote proper disposal of household chemicals and hazardous waste.
- Promote participation in citizen science (*e.g.*, volunteer monitoring) for birds, such as Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, Project Feeder Watch, and the New Jersey Wildlife Conservation Corps.
- Promote the purchase of Duck Stamps. Proceeds support the expansion of National Wildlife Refuges, including the five refuges in New Jersey.
- Promote shade-grown coffee. Traditional coffee plantations, where coffee shrubs are grown under a canopy of diverse tropical trees, harbor an abundance of birds, including migrant songbirds that breed in New Jersey.
- Promote passive recreation and ecotourism, including bird watching. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day.



**Common Yellowthroat** (*Geothlypis trichas*)



**Black Skimmer** (*Rynchops niger*)



**Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*)



**Screech Owl** (*Otus asio*)

**Visit online the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's internet resource for links to web sites providing additional tips and information on migratory bird conservation in New Jersey at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/migratorybird/>**